

John Freeman – Eastham Land Records 1645 - 1750

John Freeman arrived in Plymouth as a young man in 1635. He was the youngest son of Edmund Freeman who settled Sandwich. John married Mercy Prence. She was the daughter of Gov. Thomas Prence and his wife Patience Brewster who was the daughter of William Brewster.

John and Mercy were in Eastham by 1650. He was appointed to the group of Purchasers. He was prominent in Eastham affairs as was his father-in-law Thomas Prence. John represented Eastham in the Colony Court most years from 1652 to 1666. He was chosen assistant to the Governor in 1667 and he was reelected to that position every year until 1692.

John commanded the Barnstable County Regiment as a Major and he fought in King Phillip's war. He died in 1719 in his 98th year. The gravestone for Major John Freeman is in Cove Burying Ground next to the gravestone for his wife Mercy (Marcy on her gravestone) who died in 1711 at age eighty.

1659

Granted to John Freeman four and one-half acres of upland for his house lot. PDF A136, M191, S17.

Three and one-half acres of upland lawfully possessed by John Freeman granted to Ralph Smith for a house lot. PDF A136.

Granted to John Freeman thirty acres at Great Namskaket lying between his meadow and land of Nathaniel Mayo. PDF A136, M191.

Granted to John Freeman wasteland at Great Namskaket near land belonging to Giles Hopkins and Robert Wixam. PDF A136, M191, S17.

Granted to John Freeman four acres of meadow at Great Namskaket next to land of Daniel Cole and Nathaniel Mayo. PDF A136, M192, S17, S18.

Two acres of meadow at Little Skaket lawfully possessed by John Freeman granted to Richard Knowles. PDF A136.

Granted to John Freeman two acres of meadow at Rock Harbor next to Giles Hopkins running down to the main creek. PDF A136, M192, S18.

Granted to John Freeman three-quarters of an acre at Billingsgate next to land of Ralph Smith. PDF A126, S18.

Granted to John Freeman three-quarters of an acre at Billingsgate Meadow next to land of Robert Wixam. PDF A136, M192.

Granted to John Freeman, Lt. Rogers and Nathaniel Mayo two acres of swampy, reedy ground near the head of Boat Meadow for use as calves pasture. PDF A158, M224, S24.

1661

John Freeman purchased from Ralph Smith two acres of meadow at Great Namskaket between land belonging to Nathaniel Mayo and Robert Wixam. PDF A136.

1662

Granted to John Freeman upland at Great Namskaket extending from the creek in Giles Hopkins' meadow to land belonging to Thomas Prence and Richard Sparrow. This grant was in exchange for John Freeman's house lot near the head of the Cove and upland he had bought from Ralph Smith all totaling about eight acres. PDF A137, P22.

Land belonging to John Freeman at the head of the Cove was granted to Benniah Dunham providing Dunham remained a resident of Eastham for at least one year from the date of the grant. PDF A217, M22

1666

John Freeman and Josiah Cooke obtained from Sampson the Indian for the Town's use rights to whales and blubber for specified parts of the shore. In exchange Sampson was given a small island near Pochet called Squanacut Island. PDF A223.

1668

Granted to John Freeman twenty acres of upland at Namskaket near his house. PDF A137, M192, S33.

1669

Granted to John Freeman twenty acres of upland and one acre of meadow at Little Billingsgate at the head of a cove that comes from Duck Creek and next to land belonging to Josiah Cooke. The land granted to John Freeman was lawfully possessed by Josiah Cooke. PDF A137, M193.

1676

John Freeman purchased from Thomas Prence two acres of upland next to the Little Creek. PDF M281, M282.

Granted to John Freeman a small parcel of upland between land of Joseph Rogers and Nicholas Snow on the easterly side of a little brook. PDF M281, M282.

1677

Granted to John Freeman three-quarters of an acre on Pochet Island between equal size lots granted to John Jenkins and Edward Bangs on the easterly side of the meadow at the mouth of the river. PDF A231, M41, S105.

1679

Granted to John Freeman one and one-half acres at Tonset next to land formerly granted to Thomas Prence. The land is next to the upper end of Mill Pond and extends to Tom's Cove. PDF A137, M193.

John Freeman purchased from Thomas Paine five acres of upland on the southwesterly side of Namskaket next to land of Lt. Rogers and Mark Snow. PDF M38.

John Freeman purchased from Thomas Paine five acres of upland near the Point of Rocks at Satucket. PDF M38.

1680

Granted to John Freeman the eighth lot in the old Indian Field at Satucket bounded on the westerly side by the river and on the easterly side by the old Indian hedge running down to a swamp. PDF A135, M191.

Granted to John Freeman three acres at Satucket in the old Indian field between land bought from the Indians by Thomas Clark and Jonathan Bangs. PDF A135, M190, S52, S80.

1682

Granted to John Freeman two acres on Little Tom's Island on the farther side of Potanamucet. PDF M241.

1683

Granted to John Freeman two acres of marsh ground at Billingsgate at Great Blackfish River next to land of Thomas Paine and Joseph Harding. PDF A134, M189, S53.

1695

Granted to John Freeman six acres of meadow and two acres of upland at Little Billingsgate on the north side of the Herring River. PDF M254, M255, S75.

1703

Granted to John Freeman three acres of meadow at Pochet Flats. The land was next to land owned by Barnabas Wixam. PDF M153.

Granted to John Freeman and Jonathan Higgins four acres of meadow at Pochet High Meadow to be shared equally. PDF M163, S85.

1711

Twenty four lots were granted at Great Island at Billingsgate. Lot fourteen was shared by John Freeman, Nathaniel Freeman, Barnabas Wixam, Joseph Cooke and Ebenezer Snow. Bounds of the lot were defined by corner bounds of other lots and stakes in the ground. PDF T86, T88.

Granted to John Freeman six acres of wood lot at Billingsgate Meadow next to the wood lot of Joseph Harding and near the sea shore. PDF T115.

Granted to John Freeman four acres of plain lot on the eastern side of his other land. PDF T115.

Granted to John Freeman four acres at Little Skaket. PDF T115.

Granted to John Freeman one-half acre on the southwesterly side of the way that leads to his house. PDF T115.

1715

Granted to John Freeman the second lot in a series of 141 grants of plain lots. The lot was about five acres and it was next to the first lot which was granted to Isaac Freeman. The lot was next to the way that comes from Lt. Edmond Freeman and near the Little Swamp. PDF T192, T193.

Granted to John Freeman the eighty-eighth wood lot in a series of 156 grants of wood lots. The wood lot was three-quarters of a mile north of the head of Blackfish Creek on the easterly side of the way that goes to Little Billingsgate. The lot ran east to west 320 pole (5,280 feet) and north to south 56 pole (924 feet) which was about 112 acres. PDF T288.

(The 156 wood lot grants of 1715 were the largest one time series of Eastham land grants from 1650 to 1745.)

The land owned by John Freeman described in these records amounts to about 155 acres plus the 112 acres of wood lot granted in 1715. By 1745 fourteen more Freemans received Eastham land grants.